

Church, Tyler, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Father God, how loving, how gracious, how wonderful, how good, how vast are Your methods for bringing us ever so close to You so that we might experience Your awesome power of love and care for us as a Nation.

Lord God, we pray today that You will let common ground and middle ground be the order of the day for the common good of our Nation.

Loving God, bless the Members of the people's House. Give them wisdom and understanding to be a blessing to our house.

Merciful God, in times like these, oh, precious Lord, take their hands, touch their hearts, speak to their souls, that the Members of this body may be bold servants of this Nation.

Our eternal God, may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SARBANES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### WELCOMING REVEREND JEROME R. MILTON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, our visiting chaplain today is Reverend Jerome R. Milton, pastor of the Greater New Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

As a small child, he was left with his brother and sister in a rundown motel in San Diego to die. They were placed in a horrific orphanage, where despicable abuses were inflicted, ultimately resulting in the suicide of his siblings.

Jerome was eventually placed in the home of Dadie Florence Brown, the 14th foster home. This uneducated but strong-willed lady told young Jerome that, despite all he'd been through, "Don't allow your abuse to be your excuse." She knew God would make him something special, and she prayed for him every day.

Jerome could run fast and play football well and got a scholarship to do

both at UCLA. As he says, God moved him from foster care to people care. He and his wife, Charlene, have nine children, six of them adopted.

In addition to being a pastor, he's the head track coach at Gorman Catholic High School, leading his teams to 10 State championships, and has been Tyler's Citizen of the Year with the T.B. Butler Award. His work has spanned race, religion, all types of barriers, and he has blessed so many lives, including mine.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 12, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2012 at 11:08 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4014.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4367.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2467.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3319.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 6328.

That the Senate passed S. 3564.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FISCAL CLIFF PLAN CALLS FOR \$1.2 TRILLION IN NEW SPENDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during his campaign for reelection, the President called for a balanced approach to solve the fiscal cliff crisis. Unfortunately, the plan his administration submitted to Congress does not include the spending cuts necessary to address our Nation's \$16 trillion national debt.

According to Senate Budget Committee Ranking Member JEFF SESSIONS' staff's calculation of data from the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget, the President's plan suggests that

roughly 75 percent, or \$1.2 trillion, in new revenue be directed to new spending instead of deficit reduction.

The fiscal cliff must be averted to protect our economy for future generations. Yesterday, House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER asked the President to identify specific cuts he is willing to make for a balanced approach. I hope the President will take immediate action so progress can be made for a bipartisan solution.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

### LESSONS LEARNED IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE SANDY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, there are many lessons to be learned in the wake of the hurricane that devastated parts of New York and New Jersey, one of which is the importance of electronic medical records and health information technology.

While many hospitals and medical centers were damaged by the storm, hospitals that employed electronic medical records were able to ensure that vital health information was maintained and not lost. Not only that, electronic medical records enabled continuity of care as patients were transferred between hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one example of how electronic health records can improve quality of patient care, integrate health systems, and ultimately, reduce unnecessary costs.

My western New York community was an early adopter of electronic medical records and has since been recognized nationally as a leader in health information technology. I urge the House to continue the widespread adoption of health information technology and to assist in its expansion across the country.

□ 1210

### TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA, WATER SUPPLY FIASCO

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Last week, the ninth circuit court heard a case regarding Tombstone, Arizona's right to access its water supply. Last year, a devastating combination of wildfires and monsoons struck Tombstone, leaving only 3 of its 25 springs in operation. Tombstone has been engaged in a year-long standoff with the Federal Government over the repairs that will restore the town's water supply because those springs are in wilderness areas and they are prohibited from using mechanized equipment to make the necessary repairs.

This situation is not unique. A similar disaster occurred in northern Arizona after the 2010 Schultz Pass fire.